

good pay. Many of those who have left their former homes, and idled away the proper season for the making of crops, will, at the end of the year, find themselves destitute of food and clothing, and in a situation far worse than slavery. A long Winter is before you, and unless you provide for that time, your families must suffer—yea, many must perish.

Many of you are under the impression that the Government will feed you. This is not so. Government will not feed any who have had an opportunity, and are able to labor. You have had four months of freedom, and all that wished could get work for themselves and families; and those who have not improved the past four months of their freedom, must abide by these consequences.

Ere long, the troops will be withdrawn from the State. You will be left to provide for, and protect yourselves. By your labor you can provide, and by your good behavior you will secure protection. You must know that your freedom has taken away that interest which your former masters had for you. When in slavery you were their property—they valued you as dollars and cents—and it was their interest to feed, clothe, and nurse you in sickness; but now that interest has gone. The responsibilities that then rested upon them, now falls upon you, and you only. Your first step now should be to establish for yourselves a character for industry and integrity, and, unless you do so, your fate will be that of the North American Indian—your race will pass away, and you will be known only in name.

Then let me entreat of you, as a friend, ere it is too late, to think of these things—to look upon your positions as it is, and make the resolve that you will make a good name and a place in this good and free government.

The Government has guaranteed to you certain rights and privileges. In those rights you will be protected. Your rights consist in your freedom, which is freedom to make your own contracts, to receive the benefit of your own labor, to choose you own employer, to keep and govern your own families, to educate your children, and to worship God after your own manner. The same powers that gave you these rights and privileges, have imposed upon you certain and new duties, compelling you to labor to support your families, to obey the laws of your country, to show respect and cheerful obedience to your employers, to fulfill and respect all contracts, to hold the marriage ties as sacred, and to so conduct and deport yourselves as to win the respect and confidence of all men.